

to each candidate and completes enough copies of a statement of the poll so that each candidate, or their respective election or counting agent, receives one copy and another is sent to the returning officer.

The postal ballots are counted by the returning officer. We observed the counting proceedings at several polling stations and the counting of postal votes by the returning officers. All the teams found the counting procedures to be in accordance with the relevant rules and regulations and to have been efficiently executed.

11. COMPLAINTS

We received a number of representations from leaders of Opposition parties, certain pressure groups and individuals making complaints concerning unfair practices on the part of the Government and the Election Commission relating to various aspects of the election process. Basically, the complaints were of two categories: long-standing complaints such as uneven application of the law with regard to the use of the media in election campaigning, restrictions on election campaign meetings and malpractices in the operation of postal ballots; and allegations relating to specific irregularities in the actual preparation and supervision of the 1990 general elections.

We did not see it as our task to become embroiled in any disputes or to take sides in any arguments. We explained to the complainants that our role was to observe the organisation and conduct of the elections by the Election Commission in accordance with the law of the country. Accordingly, we did not see it as within our terms of reference to investigate and establish the validity of the allegations made, although we felt it was important to bring to the attention of the Election Commission the complaints we received. In particular, in those cases where the allegations made related to specific aspects of the procedures, we drew the attention of the Election Commission and sought their clarification.

Finally, we would like to express our appreciation to all individuals and groups from both Government and Opposition who volunteered to come forward and discuss their views with us and more so in the demanding circumstances of the election.

12. ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

We wish to record our deep appreciation to all those who contributed to the carrying out of our mandate, and particularly to those without whose assistance we would not have been able to function effectively. To the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Malaysia, we extend our special thanks for support and for facilities so willingly placed at our disposal. We wish in particular to pay a warm tribute to the devoted and untiring